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sent 2/7/86

GP ★  
Bartlett  
J. Burk  
M. Gadey  
R. Grimes

ENVIRPUB CGO

WU INFOMASTER 4-0190825038-001 02/07/86  
103 IPMBNGZ CSP  
3128861960 JGM TDBN CHICAGO IL 850 02-07 0126P EST  
TWX 9102215191 ENVIRPUB CGO  
EMERGENCY RESPONSE  
4224 EPA CYER

DATE: 7 FEBRUARY 86  
FROM: S.M. BROWNING, OSC (312) 886-1960  
TO: FIELDS, BOWDEN, BECK, AND GRIMES  
SUBJECT: ~~EMERGENCY ACTION AT A-CHEMICAL CORP. CHICAGO IL~~

SITUATION:  
AN IMMEDIATE REMOVAL OF SURFACE CONTAMINATION RESULTING FROM A CHEMICAL FIRE AT A-CHEMICAL CORP, LOCATED AT 1322 NORTHWESTERN AVE, CHICAGO, IL WAS CONDUCTED BETWEEN 20 JAN 86 AND 1 FEB 86. OUR ACTION WAS NECESSITATED BY SURFACE, EXTERNAL, CONTAMINATION OF ADJACENT SIDEWALKS AND STREETS SURROUNDING THE FACILITY. CONTAMINANTS IDENTIFIED INCLUDED CHROMIC ACID, HEXAVALENT CHROMIUM, CYANIDES, AND COPPER. THIS EXTERNAL CONTAMINATION RESULTED FROM THE CHICAGO FIRE DEPARTMENT'S RESPONSE TO EXTINGUISH THE FIRE. THE INCIDENT OCCURED ON SUPERBOWL SUNDAY AT APPROXIMATELY 130PM. THE COMBINATION OF SUBZERO TEMPERATURES, HIGH WINDS, AND DEBRIS PLUGGED SEWER LINES IN/AROUND THE FACILITY, PREVENTED CONTAMINATED FIRE WATER FROM DRAINING THROUGH TO THE SEWERS. INSTEAD, THE WATER FROZE AND REMAINED AS A YELLOW COLORED SHEET OF ICE ON THE FRONT AND REAR OF THE FACILITY AS WELL AS ADJACENT SIDE STREETS. THE AREA CAN BE CHARACTERIZED AS A MIXED OF BOTH RESIDENTIAL AND LIGHT BUSINESS. MOREOVER, BECAUSE THE FACILITY IS LOCATED ON A MAJOR THOROUGHFARE THE POTENTIAL FOR FURTHER OFFSITE MIGRATION OF CONTAMINATION WAS AGGRAVATED, AS WELL AS THE THREAT TO THE PUBLIC'S HEALTH AND SAFETY.

OUR ATTEMPTS TO WORK COOPERATIVELY WITH THE RESPONSIBLE PARTY WAS SEMISUCCESSFUL- THEY DID SECURE THE FACILITY, ELIMINATING FURTHER OFFSITE CONTAMINANT MIGRATION, AND REMOVED BOTH THE REMAINING CYANIDES AND ACIDS. THEY WERE UNABLE TO FINANCIALLY ASSUME RESPONSIBILITY FOR A CLEANUP.

PROJECT BUDGET:  
AUTHORIZED: \$15,000  
D.O. CEILING \$12,000  
D.O. (EXPENDED) \$9,000

S.M. BROWNING

1338 EST  
ENVIRPUB CGO